



Summer 2019

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 3

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AMBS window

Transitions: Leaving well

Sara Wenger Shenk, EdD, AMBS
*President, retired June 30, 2019, after
having served since the fall of 2010.*

A friend commented to me recently that an acquaintance “did not leave well” from her previous job. It felt like an observation loaded with import. What does it mean to leave well? Doing transitions well is hard work. Some transitions, like graduation, have established ways to celebrate endings and new beginnings. That doesn’t make it easy. Leaving dearly loved friends and professors is painful, and finding fulfilling work is uncertain. But with commencement rituals and blessings, persons can leave well.

For years, I’ve been asking myself: how will I know when it is time to leave? When is it right for AMBS and for me personally? There were times, when the work was so intense, that I longed for an excuse to make a quick exit, and then was glad I didn’t. I have mostly loved this work and wondered how I could bear to leave. Yet I have felt a growing sense that I have given what I can and it is time

for someone with new vision to lead this beautiful learning community into the future.

Last fall, I went on retreat to discern whether I felt released from the call that brought me here. I had only come in the first place because, in the midst of my trepidation, I sensed an unexpected joy and rightness about yielding to the adventure. As long as I felt fortified by the Spirit’s courage, I could keep putting one foot in front of the other despite the daily challenges. On retreat, as I walked the prairie trails, listened and prayed, I wrote in my journal: “Dear Maker, Sustainer, Lover, Redeemer, I feel that it is time. And from all that I can tell, you are releasing me from this work. What are the signs? Not loud, certain, obvious, but creeping in little by little. It is time to lay this down ...”

In 2010 I had walked the retreat labyrinth as I began to serve as President — inviting the AMBS mission statement to open itself to me. Last fall, I walked it again, weeping with gratitude for the goodness I’ve been blessed to be a part of these nine years.

On leaving the labyrinth’s center, this song welled up: “Go my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love’s baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.”

I began, step by step, to leave. I was met by a community that does leavings exceptionally well.

Truly God is in this place! The place of transition. Whether we stay or leave, we are never alone. We are washed in “love’s baptismal river” and belong to God. Forever. •

Above: Sungbin Kim (MDiv) of Seoul, Gyeonggi, South Korea, receives his diploma and bell from President Sara Wenger Shenk at AMBS’s 2019 commencement. Credit: Jason Bryant

STAY IN TOUCH

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- soundcloud.com/followAMBS

Graduates urged to pursue “ministry of celebration”

Meghan Larissa Good, DMin, encouraged the 20 graduates at the 73rd AMBS commencement to embrace a ministry of celebration.

“Our primary work,” Good said, “is to do two things: to proclaim to the world its glorious destiny and to rejoice ahead of time in the victory that is overcoming everything.”

Good, of Phoenix, Arizona, is Teaching Pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Arizona; a member of the AMBS Board of Directors; and author of *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today* (Herald, 2018). During the commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 4, at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, she reflected on one of her favorite passages, 2 Corinthians 2:14-17, where Paul envisions Christians as the captives of Christ’s victory parade.

Captives in Roman military parades were walking to their deaths, but Paul’s metaphor suggests that the captives are celebrating, which means they “must know something that no one else does,” Good said.

“We are commissioning you for a ministry of celebration. We are sending you out as the world’s most joy-filled captives,” Good declared. “Wherever you go from here — wherever God’s



AMBS's 2019 graduates after the commencement service. **Credit:** Jason Bryant

call takes you — what you are going to do is you are going to wear your weakness openly and declare at the top of your lungs, ‘Look what the power of God has done! The God of the universe is toppling tyrants, beginning here with me. Praise God that I’ve been taken captive by the mercy of the Lamb.’”

She explained that practicing ministry as a captive means remembering that God will heal the world, whether we wake up early and engage in that work or spend a day eating Cheetos under the covers. It is about “getting over ourselves” and letting go of the idea of one’s indispensability, instead focusing on “the incredible joy of getting to participate in this story,” Good told the graduates.

“Most of us come into these kinds of ministry with a burden to save the world and keep it on track and help things come together, and everything in the world seems to resist that effort,” Good said.

“This will cause you to feel overwhelmed and exhausted and to question your qualifications for this work,” she continued. “Hear me, future leaders, the broken world is not out there waiting for you to go and save it. It has been saved and it will be saved by Jesus Christ.”



Meghan Larissa Good, DMin, delivers the commencement address. **Credit:** Jason Bryant

Along with honoring the accomplishments of the 20 graduates, the commencement service also recognized three

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A seminary of
Mennonite Church USA and
Mennonite Church Canada

Graduate awards and gifts

Each year, AMBS faculty members present awards to selected graduates at the Dean’s Luncheon, which is held the day before commencement. This year’s recipients are:

- **Pratik Bagh:** Student Ambassador Recognition Award*
- **Margaret De Jong:** Willard M. Swartley Award for Excellence in Biblical Interpretation
- **Dustin Finch:** Gertrude Roten Award for Excellence in Greek Exegesis
- **Benjamin Isaak-Krauss:** Award for Excellence in Peace Studies

- **Scott Micheal Litwiller:** Heart of the Community Award
- **Grant S. Miller:** Cornelius J. Dyck Award for Excellence in Church History
- **Brian Miller O’Leary:** Perry B. Yoder Award for Excellence in Hebrew Exegesis
- **Renee Epp Reimer:** Award for Excellence in Preaching
- **Nel Warkentin:** Award for Excellence in Missional Leadership

*This new award recognizes an international student for representing AMBS in constituent churches.



Graduates ring their bells after receiving their diplomas. **Credit:** Jason Bryant

administrative and teaching faculty members who are retiring from AMBS this academic year. AMBS Vice President and Academic Dean **Beverly Lapp**, EdD, commended **Loren L. Johns**, PhD, Professor of New Testament; **Ben C. Ollenburger**, PhD, Retired Professor of Biblical Theology; and **Sara Wenger Shenk**, EdD, President. (See pp. 6–7.)

After Wenger Shenk conferred the graduates' degrees and the graduates received their diplomas and certificates, Ollenburger presented them with a charge. He echoed Good's call to celebrate amidst the struggle for God's kingdom and charged the graduates to continue in their ministry wearing the armor mentioned in Isaiah 59 and Ephesians 6, including "shoes suited to proclaiming the gospel of peace."

Not only are those shoes fit for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, he said, but "those same new shoes are good for dancing, and the gospel is the greatest music ever composed, so even while you are wearing armor and wielding weapons, yield to the Spirit's song, and dance to the music." •

— *Marlys Weaver-Stoesz for AMBS*

Profile of the 2019 graduates

This year's graduates range in age from 25 to 62 and come from nine countries — Australia, Canada, Germany, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Japan, South Korea and the United States — on five continents.

Ten of the graduates are affiliated with Mennonite Church USA; one with Mennonite Church Canada; and five with Mennonite Churches in other countries. One identifies as Baptist; one as Anglican; one as Church of Christ; and one as nondenominational.

One of the graduates, **Scott Litwiller** (MDiv) was a former participant in AMBS's !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth, and both Scott and **Naün Lucio Cerrato** (MAPS) served as event pastors for the 2018 !Explore cohort as part of their studies. Another graduate, **Anne Perkins Munley** (MDiv) completed AMBS's nondegree Journey Missional Leadership Program before beginning seminary. **Benjamin Isaak-Krauss** (MDiv) is the first AMBS graduate to complete the Sustainability Leadership Semester at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen (Indiana) College as part of his seminary studies.

Several graduates have family members who are AMBS graduates: **Pratik Bagh's** uncles, **Anil Bagh** (MATS 1998) and **Prem Bagh** (Certificate 1996); **Barbara Krehbiel Gehring's** husband, **Richard Gehring** (MDiv 1991); **Scott Litwiller's** uncle, **Jerry Holsopple** (MDiv 1987); **Grant Miller's** siblings, **Elizabeth Miller** (MATS 2013)

GRADUATES BY DEGREE

- 12 Master of Divinity
- 2 Master of Arts: Peace Studies
- 1 Master of Arts: Theological Studies
- 1 Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- 4 Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

GRADUATES BY THE NUMBERS

- 13 men
- 7 women
- 13 serving in ministry roles or seeking a pastoral or chaplaincy assignment
- 4 pursuing mission, service, church planting or peacebuilding work
- 10 served in pastoral ministry, conference ministry or mission work (not including internships) while earning their degrees

and **Lane Miller** (MDiv 2013); **Renee Reimer's** mother, **Rosie Epp** (MAPS 1977, MDiv 1983), father, **Ray Reimer** (MDiv 1983), and uncle, **Delvyn Epp** (MDiv 1973); and **Joel Schroeder's** wife, **Kay Schroeder** (MACF 2018).

As a gift to the seminary — an annual tradition — this year's class will build a wood-fired pizza oven on campus near the pergola given by the Class of 2017. •

Graduates also received a one-year print subscription to *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* from the Institute of Mennonite Studies; access to the Atlas for Alum database from the AMBS Library; and a complimentary registration to a Leadership Clinic in 2020 from the Church Leadership Center. The Admissions Team presented each graduate with a "golden ticket" — good for one waived \$50 admissions application fee — to share with a prospective student.

At right: **Pratik Bagh** of Kutela-Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India, receives the Student Ambassador Recognition Award from **Daniel Grimes**, Director of Enrollment and Financial Aid, at the 2019 Dean's Luncheon. **Credit:** Jason Bryant



Twenty graduates honored

The 2019 AMBS commencement service took place on May 4 at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. Each graduate received one of the following degrees and certificates.

MDiv	Master of Divinity
MAPS	Master of Arts: Peace Studies
MATS	Master of Arts: Theological Studies
MATPS	Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
Certificate	Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

* Candidates who have six or fewer credits left to complete toward their degree

† Candidates who completed a portion of their degree or certificate at a distance

***Peter Digitale Anderson** (Bremen, Indiana; currently in transition). *MATPS: Conflict Transformation*. Peter is exploring locations for multifaith urban peacebuilding. He attends the South Bend Friends Meeting – Elkhart worship group. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two daughters.

Pratik Bagh (Kutela-Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India). *MATS*. Pratik anticipates working as lead pastor of an Indian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as part of a yearlong government-approved professional training program. He also will continue as an AMBS MDiv student. Pratik is a member of Jhilmila Mennonite Church in Jhilmila-Saraipali, Chhattisgarh. He attends Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart. He and his wife, Shabnam Pratik Bagh, have one daughter.

†**Jeremiah Buhler** (Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada). *Certificate*. He plans to continue in his role as minister at First Mennonite Church in Kelowna. Jerry is married to Kara Siemens; they have five children and four grandchildren.

Naún Lucoer Cerrato (Goshen, Indiana). *MAPS: International Development Administration*. Naún is working in church planting, helping form Piedra Viva Mennonite Church in Goshen.

* †**Margaret De Jong** (Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada). *MDiv: Christian Faith Formation*. Margaret plans to pursue opportunities where her faith and health interests intersect. Her home congregation is Skyline Acres Baptist Church in Fredericton, and she attends First Assembly of God in Fort Kent, Maine. She is married to Jeff Morgenthaler and has one stepson, eight godchildren in Haiti and one namesake in Senegal.

†**Dustin Finch** (Jonesboro, Arkansas). *MDiv: Theological Studies: Biblical Studies*. Dustin plans to continue as Discipleship Minister at Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He and his wife, Angela, have two children.

†**Suzanne Engle Ford** (Fort Collins, Colorado). *MDiv: Pastoral Ministry*. Suzanne is serving as Pastor at Zion Mennonite Church in Donnellson, Iowa. Her home congregation has been Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship. She and her husband, Paul, have three children.

†**Barbara Krehbiel Gehring** (Manhattan, Kansas). *Certificate*. Barbara and her husband, Richard Gehring (MDiv 1991), are ending their



From left: Peter Digitale Anderson, Pratik Bagh, Naún Lucoer Cerrato, Margaret De Jong, Dustin Finch and Suzanne Engle Ford. Not pictured: Jeremiah Buhler.

pastoral positions at Manhattan Mennonite Church and beginning a co-pastorate at Lombard (Illinois) Mennonite Church. They have two children.

Benjamin Isaak-Krauss (Bammental, Germany). *MDiv: Theological Studies: Peace Studies*. Benjamin will serve as the host of Jubilee House in Elkhart for the next half year, providing hospitality to men released from incarceration, while his wife, Rianna Isaak-Krauss, finishes her Master of Arts in Christian Formation at AMBS. He also is looking for a pastoral position in Germany. His home congregation is the Mennonite congregation of Heidelberg-Bammental, and he attends Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church in Elkhart.

Sungbin Kim (Seoul, Gyeonggi, South Korea). *MDiv: Theological Studies: Biblical Studies*. Sungbin has been accepted as the first chaplain for work-release in Goshen, Indiana, by the Elkhart County Jail Ministry Board as part of a yearlong government-approved professional training program; he is waiting for visa approval. His home congregation is Jesus Heart Church in Chuncheon, Kangwon, South Korea, and he attends Yellow Creek Mennonite Church in Goshen. Kim is married to Shinae Park; they have one son.

***Scott Micheal Litwiller** (Delavan, Illinois). *MDiv: Christian Faith Formation*. After completing his last internship this summer, Scott plans to pursue a pastoral ministry assignment. His home congregation is Hopedale (Illinois) Mennonite Church, and he attends Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart.

* **James Longley** (Sydney, Australia). *MDiv: Theological Studies: History, Theology and Ethics*. Jim will fulfill his Supervised Ministry Experience degree requirement via a temporary placement with the United Kingdom Anabaptist Network. While in Elkhart, he attended Prairie Street Mennonite Church. He is married to Sally Longley, and they have two children.

Grant S. Miller (Danvers, Illinois). *MDiv: Theological Studies: History, Theology and Ethics*. Grant is exploring pastoral ministry and service assignment possibilities. He is a member of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen, Indiana.

* **Anne Perkins Munley** (Mundelein, Illinois). *MDiv: Pastoral Care and Counseling*. Anne plans to continue to serve in her congregation, North

Suburban Mennonite Church in Libertyville, Illinois, and as a chaplain and spiritual director. She and her husband, Gerry Munley, have five children.

Yukino Ohyama (Sapporo, Hokkaido, and Tokyo, Japan). *Certificate*. Yukino is exploring a Bible translation mission assignment. Her home congregation is Japan Mennonite Shiroishi Christian Church in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. Locally, she has been a member of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart.

Brian Miller O'Leary (Goshen, Indiana). *MDiv: Theological Studies: Biblical Studies*. Brian plans to teach high school English. His home congregation is Seattle (Washington) Mennonite Church, and he attends Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen. He is married to Katie Miller O'Leary.

* **Renee Epp Reimer** (Sioux Falls, South Dakota). *MDiv: Christian Faith Formation*. In August, Renee will begin as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, Kansas. Her home congregations are Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church in Sioux Falls and Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas



From left: Benjamin Isaak-Krauss, Scott Micheal Litwiller, James Longley, Grant S. Miller and Brian Miller O'Leary.
Not pictured: Barbara Krehbiel Gehring, Sungbin Kim, Anne Perkins Munley.

City, Kansas. Locally she has attended Silverwood Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana.

Tesfaye D. Robelle (Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia). *MAPS: International Development Administration*. Tesfaye plans to work with linking theology and business via a holistic service; and with evangelism via missional business, church planting, organizing and networking. He is part of the Meserete Kristos/Mennonite Mission Church of Ethiopia.

† **Joel Ray Schroeder** (Newton, Kansas). *Certificate*. Joel plans to continue in pastoral ministry and church leadership at First Mennonite Church in Newton. He and his wife, Kay (MA in Christian Formation 2018), have two children.

* **Nel Warkentin** (Elkhart, Indiana). *MDiv: Pastoral Ministry*. Nel was the last student to simultaneously earn a Master of Social Work from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, through a dual-degree program of Andrews and AMBS that has ended. She has been offered a full-time position as a spiritual care coordinator with Heart to Heart Hospice of Mishawaka, Indiana. Her home congregation is EXTEND Missional Community in Middlebury, Indiana. She has one son, Pete Wolfinger.

Faculty and staff transitions

The AMBS learning community has been saying farewell to several of its long-time members this academic year.

Sara Wenger Shenk, EdD, retired June 30 after nine years as President. Since beginning in the fall of 2010, Wenger Shenk has provided strong direction for



Sara Wenger Shenk

the seminary's future and skillful facilitation when faced with challenging situations, including times of upheaval in higher education, in theological schools and in the church. She's overseen changes such as transitioning AMBS's name from "Associated" to "Anabaptist" in 2012, renovating the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount in 2011–12, and degree program revisions that included the creation of a distance-friendly MDiv program in 2013. She also has led efforts to increase the seminary's global reach, including connecting with Meserete Kristos College in Ethiopia to offer

AMBS's new fully online MA: Theology and Global Anabaptism to graduate students based in Ethiopia.

As existing faculty members have retired, nine new teaching faculty members and a Vice President and Academic Dean have been hired during her tenure. She initiated strategic focus conversations among the faculty that led to further integration of environmental, immigration and peace issues into the curriculum. She notes that these projects have all been team efforts.

"Sara's ability to encourage collaboration and enable people to lead and be the best they can be — combined with her willingness to give strong direction when required — has empowered AMBS to grow and thrive," said Board Chair **Bruce Baergen** of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. "Her passion for the work and mission of the church has encouraged and strengthened those around her."

Wenger Shenk's leadership helped pave the way for enhanced faculty and student attention to theological and practical engagement with environmental sustainability, including four Rooted and Grounded Conferences on Land and Christian Discipleship. With her counsel and support, AMBS received several Lilly Endowment, Inc., grants, including



From left: Yukino Ohyama, Renee Epp Reimer, Tesfaye D. Robelle and Nel Warkentin. Not pictured: Joel Ray Schroeder. Graduate photos credit: Steve Echols

\$250,000 to reduce economic challenges for seminary graduates, a supplemental three-year grant of \$125,000, and a \$1 million grant to establish Thriving in Ministry: A Process for Pastoral Leaders. She also has worked closely with the Hearts on Fire Capital Campaign, which has raised more than \$9.6 million in gifts and commitments since 2015, as well as close to \$7 million in annual fund gifts. Her *Practicing Reconciliation* blog, launched in 2013, has consistently been one of the most visited pages on the seminary's website.

"Sara has been a beloved leader at AMBS, where her leadership is described as courageous, honest and pastoral," said Vice President and Academic Dean **Beverly Lapp**, EdD. "She's known for leading from a place of grounded personal integrity, a deep sense of service, and love for God."

Wenger Shenk also positioned AMBS to be transparent in naming and repenting for the seminary's failure to respond appropriately in the 1970s and '80s to abuse perpetrated by John Howard Yoder, a former AMBS professor and administrator — which included organizing services of lament, confession and commitment in 2015.

"Sara understood in her mind, her spirit and her gut that somehow AMBS's future as a healthy seminary and church institution required telling old and new truths about our past," said **Malinda E. Berry***, PhD, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics. "Her integrity has given all of us more options for what it means to be a leader."

Wenger Shenk plans to live near Waynesboro, Virginia, with her husband, **Gerald**, where they will be closer to family, including grandchildren.



Loren Johns

Loren L. Johns*, PhD, Professor of New Testament, retired June 30 after 19 years of service. He was Academic Dean (2000–07) before joining the teaching faculty, and he also was Director of the MDiv program (2009–18).

Johns has served as New Testament editor of the Believers Church Bible Commentary; as associate editor of the Princeton Dead Sea Scrolls Project; as a speaker and presenter; and as author of many books, articles and book reviews.

"Loren's primary research on the role of the Bible in the church, the letters of Paul, canonical formation and the Johannine literature will enrich the academy for much time to come," Lapp said.

Johns is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association and has served as Vice President and President of the Mennonite Historical Society.

"Loren's love for God is evident in the ways he engages the biblical text both critically and confessionally," said **Safwat Marzouk**, PhD, Associate Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. "He loves his students not only by helping them change the ways they read, interpret, understand and preach the Bible, but also by sharing his own life stories of how he reads, interprets and preaches the good news to the world around him."

Johns and his wife, **Rachel**, will serve as hosts of the Casa Emaús guesthouse at SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala, for a year before moving to Florida. He plans to teach occasional AMBS courses.

Ben C. Ollenburger, PhD, retired Dec. 31, 2018, after teaching biblical theology and Old Testament for 31 years at AMBS, also serving as Director of MA programs since 1997. He has authored multiple books, including *Zion, the City of the Great King: A Theological Symbol of the Jerusalem Cult* (Sheffield Academic, 1987) and *Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future* (Eisenbrauns, 2004). (The latter was included in 101 Books on Biblical Theology, an annotated bibliography released by Zondervan Bibles in 2018 in



Ben Ollenburger

conjunction with their new *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible*.)

Ollenburger has contributed to several academic journals and served on editorial boards and councils for the *Journal of Theological Interpretation*, *Biblical Interpretation* and *Theology Today*.

"Generations of students and colleagues have been inspired and had their faith strengthened by Ben as an accomplished scholar teacher and delightful storyteller," said Lapp.

Marzouk praised Ollenburger for consistently bringing biblical texts' "vibrant theological message to the life of the church."

In March, a book edited by two of his former students, **Ryan D. Harker** (MDiv 2015) and **Heather L. Bunce** (MATS 2012), was released by Penn State University Press. *The Earth is the Lord's: Essays on Creation and the Bible in Honor of Ben C. Ollenburger* contains essays by colleagues and former students.

Ken Hawkley*, MDiv, retired June 30. He served full time as Senior Associate Director of Development (2008–18) and quarter time as Advancement Associate for Canada (2018–19). Over time, his territories came to include the western half of the United States and all of Canada.



Ken Hawkley

By Hawkley's estimation, over his 11 years of service, he completed approximately 3,000 donor visits and 150 Sunday morning church visits; preached 60 sermons; and traveled 300,000 miles.

"Ken has been a wise, passionate force in AMBS Advancement, beloved by his colleagues and his faithful donors," said **Paula Killough***, MDiv, Interim Director of Advancement. "He has been an innovator, bringing the team new ideas and creative concepts for sharing the powerful AMBS story." •

—Marlys Weaver-Stoesz and Annette Brill Bergstresser

*Denotes AMBS graduate

AMBS SNAPSHOTS

2019 graduates reflect on their seminary experiences

**Peter Digitale
Anderson (MATPS),
Bremen, Indiana:**

"Studying peace and theology at AMBS has sharpened and expanded my vision of multifaith peace-building, giving me a much deeper understanding of how communities' traditions and spiritualities aid in building bridges of trust and cooperation."



**Scott Micheal
Litwiller (MDiv),
Delavan, Illinois:**

"I will forever be grateful for the community — the students, volunteers, faculty and staff — for many reasons, but especially for the way that we engage with one another on personal, intellectual and spiritual levels. There are too few places out there like AMBS."



**Anne Perkins
Munley (MDiv),
Mundelein, Illinois:**

"I treasure this seminary experience. I've come to know the Bible better, learning to experience it and express it with mind, emotions, body and spirit. I have enjoyed learning in an environment of patient, creative, thoughtful staff and faculty who live what they believe. I am grateful."



**Suzanne Engle
Ford (MDiv), Fort
Collins, Colorado:**

"The most meaningful part of seminary for me was the combination of internships and leadership courses. Also,

through the MDiv Connect program, I now have a community of colleagues throughout the U.S. and Canada and in other parts of the world."



**Sungbin Kim
(MDiv), Seoul,
Gyeonggi, South
Korea:** "At AMBS, even in my striving for *Jesus' peace* (Jn 14:27), I have deeply appreciated people's humanness, loving

patience, equality, care for international students, anti-racism work, and the generous scholarship."



**Nel Warkentin
(MDiv/MSW),
Elkhart, Indiana:**

"I found the community environment at AMBS really encouraging.

It provided a safe, comforting place for academic, spiritual and personal growth."

LOOKING FORWARD

Introducing our fully online MA!

In response to a growing demand for online master's degrees, AMBS has launched a fully online **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism**.

The 46-credit-hour academic degree program can be completed in four years of part-time study and offers a global approach to Anabaptist theological education.

ambs.edu/matga

Semester One for-credit courses

Fully online courses (Sept. 3 – Dec. 13) include Creation Care: Theology, Ethics and Spirituality; Psalms; History of Christianity in Africa; Strange New World of the Bible 1; and more.

Our **hybrid course** (online Aug. 5 – Dec. 13 and requiring one week on campus Aug. 19–24) will be Teaching and Learning for Transformation. We're also offering 13 **campus courses**. Nonadmitted students get 50 percent off their first course for credit!

ambs.edu/onecourse

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program

Nurture your leadership abilities. Deepen your theological perspectives. Tend to your spiritual formation. Join the Journey program! Journey offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. The nondegree program is open to all who are exploring what ministry looks like in their life. Register for fall 2019 by Aug. 6; save \$100 if you register by July 16.

ambs.edu/journey

Spiritual Direction Seminars

Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction through this supervised program. In 2019–20, **Spiritual Direction: Foundations** is a hybrid course with classwork online and on campus at AMBS. **Spiritual Direction: Mystery** will meet Oct. 7–8, Feb. 17–18 and May 4–5 on campus. Instructor: Dan Schrock, DMin.

ambs.edu/seminars

Anabaptist Short Courses (online, noncredit, six weeks)

- **Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology**, with Jamie Pitts, PhD: Sept. 11 – Oct. 22
- **Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible**, with Safwat Marzouk, PhD, and Drew Strait, PhD: Oct. 23 – Dec. 10
- **Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture**, with Loren Johns, PhD: Feb. 12 – March 24
- **Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication**, with Betty Pries, PhD (ABD): April 15 – May 26

\$300/course by the early registration deadline; \$350 after. Only \$995 total for all four courses if you register by Aug. 16! ambs.edu/shortcourses

Available online! Anabaptist Witness 6.1: "Mission in Conflict Zones."

anabaptistwitness.org

Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, Spring 2019: "Be not afraid." mennovision.org